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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

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Phone 800-227-8917  
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Ref: 8EPR-SR

July 17, 2002

Ms. Lorraine Granado  
Cross Community Coalition  
2332 East 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Denver, CO 80216

Dear Ms. Granado:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) carefully considered your request that we extend the public comment period for VB/I-70 Proposed Plan. The public comment period is scheduled to end on July 19, 2002. At a meeting of the VB/I-70 Working Group on July 11, 2002, you requested that EPA extend the public comment period on the Proposed Plan until the "Kids at Play" Health Study is completed to allow consideration of that study in the final cleanup decision for the VB/I-70 Site.

In considering your request, EPA took into account the following facts:

1. The chemical analyses and surveys from the Health Study may be completed as soon as October, 2002. However, it will likely require several additional months from when results are available to analyze them and draw any conclusions about the frequency and magnitude of soil contact among children who live in VB/I-70 and exposure of children to arsenic and/or lead.
2. All information from the Health Study will be considered and used by EPA in the design of the Community Health Program if that program becomes a component of EPA's final cleanup action for VB/I-70. EPA is committed to involving the community in the design process.
3. The Superfund process allows consideration of new information at anytime in the cleanup process. If, when results of the Health Study are available, there is sufficient new information to cause EPA to modify a cleanup decision, the Superfund process allows for this.
4. In August, 2001, the Clayton, Elyria, and Swansea Environmental Coalition (CEASE) requested a 30-day extension of the public comment period on the VB/I-70 Proposed Plan. In response, EPA extended the 30 day public comment period to 60 days.

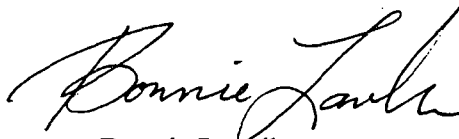


5. EPA established the comment period to allow sufficient time for residents, property owners, and other interested parties to prepare comments and also to ensure that a final cleanup decision could be made in time to support a request for cleanup funding early in the next fiscal year. The timing of the comment period is critical to putting this project in the best position possible to allow cleanup work to begin during the 2003 fiscal year.

Although we would like to extend the comment period as you requested, we believe that adequate time has been provided and that an extension of possibly 3 - 8 months until the Health Study is completed would not be in best interest of the VB/I-70 community since it would not put the project in the best position possible to receive funding for cleanup work next fiscal year. This was our overriding consideration in deciding not to grant your request for additional time to comment. In addition, EPA is already committed to considering the results of the Health Study when they are available and to public involvement in that process.

I look forward to receiving your comments on or before July 19, 2002. As you know, you may send them to me in writing or via email. EPA considers the close of the comment period the beginning of a discussion about how best to address the stated concerns and to incorporate community acceptance into a final decision on cleaning up the residential soils in the VB/I-70 Site

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bonnie Lavelle".

Bonnie Lavelle  
Remedial Project Manager